

THE HUMBLE  
PETITION

OF

The Commons of KENT,

Agreed upon at their Generall Assizes,

Presented to His Maiestie the

First of *August*. 1642.

With certaine Instructions from the County of *Kent*  
to Mr. *Augustine Skinner*, whereby the Desires of  
the said Countie may be presented by him to  
the Honourable House of *Commons*.

With His Maiesties Answer to the  
aforesaid PETITION.

At the Court at *Torke*, August 4. 1642.

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First printed at *Torke*, and now reprinted at *London*  
for *William Smith*. 1642.

THE  
EIGHTH  
OF

Agreed upon by the  
President of the  
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With the Minutes  
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*To the Kings most Excellent Majestie.*

**The Humble Petition of the Commons of  
Kent, agreed upon at their generall Assizes.**

*Most gracious Sovereigne,*



We do, with all thankfulness acknowledge Your great Grace and favour towards us, and the whole Kingdome; In passing many good Laws for the benefit of Your Subjects, In promising to ease us of all our grievances; And graciously inviting us, by Your Letter directed to the Judge of our Assize, full of Love and Care for Your Peoples good, to Petition for redresse of them, promising a Gracious Answer; and wee should with all humility have presented them to Your Majestie at this time, did not the present great distractions and apprehensions of a Civill War (which wee earnestly pray to God to divert) put us beyond all thought of other grievances. For prevention whereof, wee have with all loyaltie of heart to Your Sacred Majestie, with all love and faithfulness to our Countrey, presented our humble advice in certaine Instructions to one of our Knights of the Shire now here present with a Committee from the House of Commons, to be Presented by him to that Honorable House: The Copie whereof wee make bold to annex unto this Petition;

Most humbly desiring Your most Excellent Majestie, That it shall please the Houses of Parliament to satisfie Your Majesties just desires in these particulars, That then Your Majestie would be graciously pleased to lay downe Your extraordinary Guards, and cheerefully meet Your Parliament, in such a place where Your Sacred Majestie and each Member of both Houses may be free from tumultuary Assemblies.

*And, as in all duty bound, we shall daily pray for Your Majesties  
long Life, and prosperous Reigne over us.*

Instructions from the County of Kent, to Master Augustine Skinner,  
by the Desire of the said County, to the Honourable House of Commons.

Whereas a Commission from the House of Commons is now sent downe to the Justices, upon a credible Information (as they say) that something should bee done to the Disturbance of the Peace of this Countie

We, the Commons of Kent, require you Master Augustine Skinner (as our Servant) to certifye to that Honourable Houle, That you found the County in full Peace, and that there is no ground for any such Information, and that you desire, in our Names, to know the particulars of that Information (of which it seemes you are ignorant, and the Informer) that this County may have full reparations in Honour against so scandalous an aspersion cast upon them; and that the Informer, of what quality soever, may receive condigne punishment. And that the House of Commons may understand our desires not onely to preserve the Peace of this Countie, which (with Gods blessing, and the helpe of our good knowne Lawes of this Kingdome) we are confident we shall maintaine, but also of the whole Kingdome, being now in so greata distraction, that every Man stands at a gaze, to see what the event is likely to bee. And well weighing what a great fire a small spaike may kinde, abhorring and detesting the thought of Civill Warre. We further require you, to offer our humble advice as faithfull and Loyall Subjects to His Majesty, and good Patriots, and Lovers of our Country, for settling the distractions of these times. One principall meanes to effect it, we conceive will be to give His Majestie full satisfaction in His Just Desires, in these four Particulars:

1. In presently leaving the Towne of Hull in the same State it was before Sir Iohn Hothams entrance into it; And delivering His Majestie His own Magazine.

2. In laying aside the Militia, untill a good Law may be framed, wherein care may be taken as well for the Liberty of the Subject, as the Defence of the Kingdome.

3. That the Parliament be Adjourned to an indifferent place, where His Sacred Maiestie, All the Lords and Members of your House of Commons may meet and treat with Honour, Freedom and Safety.

4. That His Maiesties Navie may be immediately restored to Him.

Our Reasons are these.

1. For withdrawing your Garison out of the Town of Hull, we are perswaded your Fears and Iealousies of Forraign Forces, of French

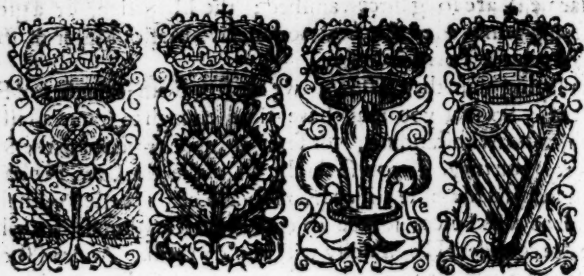
or *Danes*, or of the *Papists* at home (an inconsiderable Party, especially being disarmed) are long since vanished; the Magazine, or a greater part of it being removed to *London*, we conceive Master Major of *Hull* may safely keep the Town as before.

2. For laying aside the *Militia*, we are free from jealousies of Foreign Forces, So that you may have time enough to frame a lasting Law, which notwithstanding, for feare of Inconvenience to the Subjects Liberty, you may, if you so thinke fit, make the Law Probationer. Besides, His Majestie, if occasion should be, is vested with sufficient power to raise Forces for the defence of the Kingdome, for which onely we are confident His Majesty will employ them. And we should hold our selves worse than Infidels, if, after so many Protestations, to maintain the true Religion by Law Established, the Subjects in the Liberty of their Persons, and Propriety of their goods, and the Priviledges of Parliament, And that He will Govern us by the knowne Lawes of the Land, we should not wish full assurance beleeve Him and confide in Him.

3. For Adjourning the Parliament to another place, His Majestie hath expressed the Reasons. That He was driven a way by Tumultuarie Assemblies, and that He cannot returne thither with Honour and Safetie; And divers of the Lords are absent, who promised to returne backe to the House, when they may sit with the Liberty, and that condition that the Peerage of England formerly have done, secured from all menaces, or demanding any Account of their particular Votes, which We conceive to be against the Freedome of Parliament, which by Our Protestation We must maintaine, and from Tumultuary Assemblies. These have been the occasions, as We beleeve, that of neere five Hundred in the House of Commons, there are but about one Hundred and fourty left to sit there; and the greater part of the Lords gone away.

4. For the Restitution of the Navie, Our Reason is; That the Neighbour Nations do take notice, that His Majesties Navie is detained from Him, which if not suddenly restored, may turne to His Majesties dishonour; whose honour, by our Protestation, we are bound to maintain.

5. Another meanes, we conceive, to settle the States and mindes of the Subjects is a free, generall, and large Pardon: which since His Majesty hath so graciously offered, we desire and expect to receive; and if any man do mislike it he may be excepted, and the generality of the Subjects not hindered of their good, and His Majesties Grace and Goodnesse.



## His MAJESTIES Answer

*To the humble Petition of the Commons of Kent, agreed upon at their  
generall Assizes, and presented to his MAJESTY  
the first of August.*

At the Court at *York* this fourth of *August*, 1642.

**H**is Majestie hath with great satisfaction in the loyalty and affection of the Petitioners considered this Petition, with the instructions annexed to their Knight of the Shire, and hath expressly commanded me return this His Answer, in these words.

That the Petitioners are not more eased and satisfied with the good Laws His Majestie hath passed, then His Majesty himself is pleased with that way of obliging His Subjects, neither hath He ever made the least promise or profession of repairing or redressing the grievances of His People, which he hath not been and will be always ready to perform

His Majestie cannot blame the Petitioners to be apprehensive of a civil Warre, since the present distractions (grounded upon no visible cause, to which His Majesty could, or can yet apply a remedy) threaten no lesse confusion. But His Majesty doubts not, that the Petitioners and all His good Subjects do well understand, That His Majesty hath left no way unattempted, which in Honour, or Wildome could be considered to, to prevent that confusion.

That after so many injuries and indignities offered to Him, so many Combinations and Conspiracies against Him. He departed so much from His owne Majestie, and the Justice due to it, that He required no other reparation, then to have His Town, Goods, and Navie (taken and kept by violence from, and against Him) to be restored to Him:

Him: The power of making Lawes without Him, by the way of Ordinances ( And that in particular, concerning the *Militia* ) to be disavowed: And that a safe place may be agreed on, where He might be present with His great Councell, for the composing all misunderestandings, and making the Kingdome happye.

That before any Answer returned to His Majestie ( whilst with all patience and hope His Majestie forbore any Action, or Attempt of Force, According to promise. ) Sir *John Hotham* issued out of *Hull* in the Night, burned the Houses, and murdered the Persons of his fellow Subjects ( though he knew His Majestie quietly expected an Answer to His reasonable and necessary Demands ) and hath since exercised most barbarous cruelty upon a Drummer then taken Prisoner by him.

That these Propositions made by His Majesty, and mentioned by the Petitioners in their instructions, are dissented from, and His Majesty not suffered to enjoy what is as unquestionably His own, as any thing His Subjects can call most theirs, Upon pretence there is some trust in Foote to dispossesse His Majesty of them: Whether any such trust be derived from the petitioners, themselves best know.

That a General is made, to Command His Subjects against Him, and Forces already Marching with Cannon towards Him, Under the Conduct of the Lord *Break*, whilst all Labour and Endeavour is used to cut off all Succour and Supply from His Majestie, as from a Forraign Enemy.

When the Petitioners, and all other His Majesties Subjects have weighed this, and considered, that these strange unheard of proceedings must be the effects of desperate Resolutions, and that all this calamity is brought upon this Nation; To wrest from His Majestie His Just Rights, when no sober man can see the want of any thing which is in His Majesties power to grant, and necessary for the peace and full happinesse of the Kingdome.

That when all encouragement is given, Scandals raised, and provocations used to incense the People against His Majesty, and to publish Petitions, and Declarations, against the known Lawes, and Established Governement; The Petitioners, and all other His Majesties good Subjects ( who out of a true sense of the Distraction and Ruine the Common wealth must speedily fall ino through these Distempters, have prepared Sober, and Moderate Petitions, and Animadversions for the peace of the Kingdome ) have been discountenanced, censured and imprisoned in a Lawlesse Arbitrary way, when no offence hath been committed



mitted by them, of which the Law hath taken notice (That all their Rights, Interests, and Priviledges, which they were borne to, by the good knowne Lawes, are taken from them, or subjected to an unintelligible Arbitrary power and resolution, which destroyes their confidence and assurance even in Innocency it selfe;) They will thinke it time to provide for their owne security, by Assisting His Majestie for the defence of His Person, preservation of the true Protestant Religion; and maintenance of the Law of the Land, and Liberty of the Subject; of the which, as the Petitioners care is very eminent, and deserves all protection, thanks and estimation from His Majestie; so His Majestie will venture His Life and His Crowne with them, in that Quarrell.

Lastly, least any of the Petitioners may unjustly suffer for making or presenting this humble, dutifull and modest Petition to His Majestie; His Majesty Declares. That He will with His utmost power & assistance protect and defend them against any power whatsoever, which shall question them for so doing; and to that purpose advertiseth them; That they are not obliged to yeeld Obedience to any Pursuivants, Sergeants, or Messengers, who shall endeavour to molest them for doing their Duty, and discharging their Consciences therein. And that the whole County of Kent may know His Majesties gracious acceptance of this expression of their duty and affection unto Him; it is His Majesties pleasure, that this His Answer, together with the Petition and Instructions, bee Read in all Churches and Chappells of that County.

*Falkland.*

*FFXFS.*



